POLINO and PINTO, P.C. A Professional Corporation Moorestown Times Square 720 East Main Street, Suite 1C Moorestown, NJ 08057 (856) 727-1777

By: Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire Attorney for Plaintiff

JENNIFER A. GALLAGHER : SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Plaintiff : LAW DIVISION

v. DOCKET NO. BUR-L-2873-12

Civil Action

JOHN M. MAKOWSKI; PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION 690 SUPPLEMENTAL

RETIREMENT PLAN; THOMAS

J. McNULTY; JOHN I. KANE; THOMAS J. CROWTHER; TIMOTHY J. BRINK;

HOWARD WEINSTEIN; JOHN J. BEE

Defendants SUMMONS

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

JOHN I. KANE

The plaintiff, named above, has filed a lawsuit against you in the Superior Court of New Jersey. The Complaint attached to this Summons states the basis for this lawsuit. If you dispute this Complaint, you or your attorney must file a written answer or motion and proof of service with the Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court in the county listed above within 35 days from the date you received this Summons, not counting the date you received it. (The address of each Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court is provided.) If the Complaint is one in foreclosure, then you must file your written answer or motion and proof of service with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 971, Trenton, NJ 08625-0971. A filing fee payable to the Clerk of the Superior Court and a completed Case Information Statement (available from the Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court) must accompany your answer or motion when it is filed. You must also send a copy of your answer or motion to the plaintiff's attorney whose name and address appear above, or to plaintiff, if no attorney is named. A telephone call will not protect your rights; you must file and serve a written answer or motion (with fee of \$135.00 and completed Case Information Statement) if you want the Court to hear your defense.

If you do not file and serve a written answer or motion within 35 days, the court may enter a judgment against you for the relief plaintiff demands, plus interest and costs of suit. If judgment is entered against you, the Sheriff may seize your money, wages or property to pay all or part of the judgment.

If you cannot afford to pay an attorney, call a Legal Services Office. A list of these offices is provided. If you do not have an attorney and are not eligible for free legal assistance, you may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer Referral Services. A list of these numbers is also provided.

Dated: January 24, 2013

Superior Court of New Jersey

Jenhife M. Perez, Clerk

Name of Defendant to be served:

Address for Service:

John I. Kane

c/o Plumbers Local Union 690 Industry Funds

2791 Southampton Road Philadelphia, PA 19154

SUMMONS LIST

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division, Direct Filing 1201 Bacharach Blvd., 1st Fl. Atlantic City, NJ 08401 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 345-3444 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 348-4200

BERGEN COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Case Processing Section, Rm 119 Justice Center, 10 Main St. Hackensack, NJ 07601-0769 LAWYER REFERRAL (201) 488-0044 LEGAL SERVICES (201) 487-2166

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Central Processing Office, Attn: Judicial Intake 1st Fl., Courts Facility 49 Rancocas Rd., Mount Holly, NJ 08060 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 261-4862 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 261-1088

CAMDEN COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Processing Office 1st Fl., Hall of Records, 101 S. Fifth St. Camden, NJ 08103 LAWYER REFERRAL (856) 964-4520 LEGAL SERVICES (856) 964-2010

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Central Processing Office 9 N. Main St., Box DN-209 Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 LAWYER REFERRAL (609) 463-0313 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 465-3001

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Case Management Office Broad & Fayette Sts., P.O. Box 615, Bridgeton, NJ 08302 LAWYER REFERRAL (856) 692-6207 LEGAL SERVICES (856) 451-0003

ESSEX COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 237 Hall of Records 465 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102 LAWYER REFERRAL (973) 622-6207 LEGAL SERVICES (973) 624-4500

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Case Management Office, Attn: Intake 1st Fl., Court House, 1 North Broad St. P.O. Box 129, Woodbury, NJ 08096 LAWYER REFERRAL (856) 848-4589 LEGAL SERVICES (856) 848-5360

HUDSON COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Superior Court, Civil Records Dept. Brennan Court House - 1st Fl. 583 Newark Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07306 LAWYER REFERRAL (201) 798-2727 LEGAL SERVICES (201) 792-6363

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court, Civil Division 65 Park Ave., Flemington, NJ 08862 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 735-2611 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 782-7979

MERCER COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Local Filing Office, Courthouse 175 S. Broad St., P.O. Box 8068 Trenton, NJ 08650 LAWYER REFERRAL(609) 585-6200 LEGAL SERVICES (609) 695-6249

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Administration Building, 3rd Fl. 1 Kennedy Sq., P.O. Box 2633 New Brunswick, NJ 08903-2633 LAWYER REFERRAL (732) 828-0053 LEGAL SERVICES (732) 249-7600

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 71 Monument Pk., P.O. Box 1262 Court House, East Wing Freehold, NJ 07728-1262 LAWYER REFERRAL (732) 431-5544 LEGAL SERVICES (732) 866-0020

MORRIS COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division 30 Schuyler Pl., P.O. Box 910 Morristown, NJ 07960-0910 LAWYER REFERRAL (973) 267-5882 LEGAL SERVICES (973) 285-6911

OCEAN COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Court House, Rm. 119 118 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08754 LAWYER REFERRAL (732) 240-3666 LEGAL SERVICES (732) 341-2727

PASSAIC COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division, Court House 77 Hamilton St., Paterson, NJ 07505 LAWYER REFERRAL (973) 278-9223 LEGAL SERVICES (973) 345-7171

SALEM COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 92 Market St., P.O. Box 18 Salem, NJ 08079 LAWYER REFERRAL (856) 678-8363 LEGAL SERVICES (856) 451-0003

SOMERSET COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division Office New Court House, 3rd Fl., P.O. Box 3000 Somerville, NJ 08876 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 685-2323 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 231-0840

SUSSEX COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Sussex County Judical Center 43-47 High St., Newton, NJ 07860 LAWYER REFERRAL (973) 267-5882 LEGAL SERVICES (973) 383-7400

UNION COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 1st Fl., Court House, 2 Broad St. Elizabeth, NJ 07207-6073 LAWYER REFERRAL (908) 353-4715 LEGAL SERVICES (908) 354-4340

WARREN COUNTY

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division Office Court House, 413 Second St. Belvidere, NJ 07823-1500 LAWYER REFERRAL (973) 267-5882 LEGAL SERVICES (973) 475-2010

Case 1:13-cv-01103-JEI-AMD Document 1-1 Filed 02/25/13 Page 3 of 32 PageID: 7

SUPERIOR COURT 49 RANCOCAS ROAD

MT HOLLY NJ 08060

TRACK ASSIGNMENT NOTICE

COURT TELEPHONE NO. (609) 518-2815

COURT HOURS

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2012

RE: GALLAGHER VS MAKOWSKI

DOCKET: BUR L -002873 12

THE ABOVE CASE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO: TRACK 3.

DISCOVERY IS 450 DAYS AND RUNS FROM THE FIRST ANSWER OR 90 DAYS FROM SERVICE ON THE FIRST DEFENDANT, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

THE PRETRIAL JUDGE ASSIGNED IS: HON EVAN H. CROOK

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT TEAM 003
AT: (609) 518-2830.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THE TRACK IS INAPPROPRIATE YOU MUST FILE A
CERTIFICATION OF GOOD CAUSE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE FILING OF YOUR PLEADING.
PLAINTIFF MUST SERVE COPIES OF THIS FORM ON ALL OTHER PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE
WITH R.4:5A-2.

ATTENTION:

ATT: JOSEPH M. PINTO POLINO & PINTO 720 EAST MAIN ST SUITE 1C

MOORESTOWN NJ 08057

JUCGLW

POLINO and PINTO, P.C. Attorneys at Law Moorestown Times Square 720 East Main Street, Suite 1C Moorestown, NJ 08057 Telephone (856) 727-1777 Attorneys for Plaintiff

JENNIFER A. GALLAGHER

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Plaintiff

LAW DIVISION

ν.

DOCKET NO. BUR-L-2873-12

Civil Action

JOHN M. MAKOWSKI; PLUMBERS
LOCAL UNION 690 SUPPLEMENTAL
RETIREMENT PLAN; THOMAS

J. McNULTY; JOHN I. KANE;

THOMAS J. CROWTHER; TIMOTHY J. BRINK; HOWARD WEINSTEIN;

Defendants

JOHN J. BEE

THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Jennifer A. Gallagher, residing at 112 Blair Avenue, Berlin, New Jersey, 08009, by way of Third Amended Complaint against the defendants, says:

:

FIRST COUNT

- Defendant John M. Makowski has been an attorney at law of the State of New Jersey since 1984 and has offices at Greentree Executive Campus, 4003 Lincoln Drive West, Suite C, Marlton, New Jersey.
- 2. Defendant represented plaintiff in a divorce action filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Family Part, Camden County, Docket Number

FM-04-1621-10 entitled <u>Jennifer A. Brooks v. Gary P. Brooks</u>, <u>Jr. A Final Judgment of Divorce was entered on June 27, 2011 and an Amended Final Judgment of Divorce was entered on July 26, 2011.</u>

- 3. The divorce action was tried by the Court on June 8, 9, 22 and 27, 2011 and the Court rendered an oral decision on the record on June 27, 2011.
- 4. The Trial Judge found that plaintiff's ex-spouse Gary P. Brooks. Jr. (Brooks) was incarcerated at the time of the trial and entry of the original Judgment of Divorce. He participated in the trial by being transferred from the prison to the court and then back again. He had previously threatened plaintiff and the minor children of the marriage, was institutionalized and the Court denied him visitation with the minor children, once he was released from prison, until he complied with all conditions contained in a prior final restraining order entered under the New Jersey Domestic Violence Act and made an application to the Court for visitation.
 - 5. The Trial Judge also ordered:
- a. that Brooks immediately repay any and all money taken by him from the savings accounts of the minor children;
- b. that the coverture portion of Brooks' defined benefit pension (Pension Plan) with the Plumbers Local 690 was to be divided equally between the plaintiff and Brooks utilizing a QDRO, the cost of preparation to be divided equally;
- c. that the date of Complaint balance and all accrued interest in Brooks' Plumbers Local 690 supplemental retirement plan (SRP) with his union was to be divided between plaintiff and Brooks equally utilizing a QDRO, the cost of which was to be divided

equally;

- d. that Brooks' one-half interest in the aforesaid SRP was to be frozen by the Plan Administrator pursuant to the provisions of the Amended Judgment of Divorce and held until further Order of the Court.
- 6. Defendant prepared both the original and an Amended Judgments of Divorce. On July 6, 2011 defendant sent a form of Amended Judgment of Divorce to the Trial Judge advising that Brooks had been released from prison the previous week and that the defendant would forward the Amended Judgment to Brooks at his parents' house under the Five Day Rule pursuant to Rule 4:42-1(c).
- 7. Prior to July 6, 2011 Brooks provided a copy of the original Judgment to the Administrator of the SRP and requested a withdrawal from the SRP.
- 8. The Administrator sent a letter to Brooks dated July 6, 2011 stating that the SRP was prepared to permit the withdrawal consistent with the terms of the plan, provided Brooks confirmed that there was no Property Settlement Agreement in effect or other understanding by which the plaintiff was to receive some or all of the account balance of the SRP which might limit the amount Brooks could withdraw from SRP at that time.
- 9. Brooks signed a statement on July 8, 2011 that plaintiff was not entitled to an assignment of all or any portion of the SRP arising under a Property Settlement Agreement or otherwise, although this was not true.
- 10. The Administrator of the SRP permitted Brooks to withdraw one-half of the balance of the SRP of approximately \$23,000.
 - 11. On August 24, 2011 the attorney for the SRP, William Denmark, forwarded a

letter to the defendant (in response to a letter defendant had written to the SRP the previous week which had disclosed to the Plan Administrator that, in fact, there was a judgment in effect by which plaintiff was entitled to a share of Brooks' account balance) stating the Brooks had withdrawn one-half of the balance of the SRP prior to receipt of defendant's letter, but that one-half was still available to the plaintiff. The attorney for the plaintiff advised that defendant should be receiving forms for qualified domestic relations orders for the SRP and the defined benefit pension plan for use in submitting QDRO's to both plans.

- 12. On September 8, 2011 defendant forwarded a letter and copy of a draft QDRO to the SRP Administrator which provided that one-half the SRP would be paid to the wife and the other half frozen pending further Order of the Court. The letter asked that the QDRO be reviewed and the Administrator advise if it was acceptable. This letter did not include a draft QDRO for the pension plan.
- 13. On October 25, 2011 the SRP Administrator forwarded a letter directly to the plaintiff advising that the QDRO states she is to receive fifty percent of the balance of the SRP as of May 5, 2010 and that the amount that has been transferred to her name was \$24,857.61. The letter also enclosed forms for the plaintiff to complete if she wished to withdraw that sum.
- 14. Plaintiff completed the forms and forwarded them to the Plan Administrator in November 2011 and the sum of \$24,857.61 was thereafter released to the plaintiff.
- 15. To date, it appears that the QDRO for the pension plan has never been presented to and executed by the Court and served on the Plan Administrator.
 - 16. The defendant was negligent in his representation of the plaintiff in the

divorce action by failing to protect plaintiff's interests in the SRP and the pension plan.

- 17. Defendant's negligence includes but is not limited to the following:
- a. Defendant failed to take all steps necessary to assure that plaintiff's interests in the SRP would not be distributed to Brooks. These steps include but are not limited to failure to notify the Plan Administrator in the proper manner of plaintiff's interest in the SRP, failure to timely notify the Plan Administrator of plaintiff's interest in the SRP and pension plan, failure to serve upon the Plan Administrator those documents necessary under the Employee Retirement Income and Security Act to prevent distribution to Brooks of plaintiff's interest in the SRP and secure plaintiff's interest in the pension plan and preparing and permitting a Judgment of Divorce to be executed without any reference to plaintiff's interest in the SRP or pension plan.
- b. The defendant should have known or anticipated that Brooks would attempt to withdraw the funds from the SRP based upon Brooks' prior conduct, all of which defendant was aware, which includes but is not limited to the following:
- i. The plaintiff and Brooks separated in March 2010. While Brooks was institutionalized in the Lakeland mental facility, he called the Police and Fireman's Credit Union and had all the funds in a joint account in plaintiff's and Brooks' names transferred to another account which he controlled. The transfer was for a sum of about \$9,000. Plaintiff had written checks to the IRS to pay taxes owed because Brooks had withdrawn money from an annuity that year. The checks sent to the IRS were dishonored by the bank.
 - ii. Also while at Lakeland, Brooks contacted the same credit union

and had the credit union transfer funds out of two minors' accounts set up for the two minor children of the marriage, Sean and Eric, which totaled approximately \$1,152.04.

- iii. After the plaintiff and Brooks separated, Brooks called a bank which had financed the purchase of a travel trailer and told the bank to repossess the trailer, all without consulting with or obtaining permission from the plaintiff. This resulted in a deficiency judgment of more than \$12,000 against plaintiff.
- iv. Brooks hacked into plaintiff's email and changed her address so she would not receive any credit card bills so she would default in payments.
- v. Brooks stole the license plates off plaintiff's car and refused to return them, even after being ordered to do so by the Court.
- vi. Brooks constantly called and harassed plaintiff at work in violation of the restraining order.
- vii. Brooks violated the restraining order 11 times and is now serving a five year prison term for doing so.
- viii. Brooks refused to execute the deed to the residence transferring his interest to plaintiff in accordance with the Court's Order.
- ix. Brooks served time in Holmesburg Prison for assaulting his girlfriend by hitting her with a mug and permanently disfiguring her in 1983.
- x. Brooks was convicted of assault on a police officer, among other crimes, in 1990.
- xi. Brooks spent time in mental institutions at Kennedy Hospital and Lakeland and attempted suicided several times.

- d. Failure to advise plaintiff of what courses of action or alternatives were available to her.
- 18. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of the defendant, plaintiff has suffered damages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the defendant for compensatory damages, interest, costs, attorneys fees and whatever other relief the Court deems equitable and just under the circumstances.

SECOND COUNT

- 19. Plaintiff repeats the allegations of the First Count of this Third Amended Complaint and incorporates the same as if set forth at length herein.
- 20. Plaintiff Jennifer A. Gallagher (f/k/a Brooks) is the ex-spouse of Gary P. Brooks, Jr. (Brooks) who was an active participant and beneficiary of the Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan (Plan) with offices at 2791 Southampton Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154. It is one of a group of multi-employer benefit plans as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C.S. 1102(3) and (37), which group of plans is known as the Plumbers Local Union 690 Industry Funds of Philadelphia and Vicinity (Industry Funds) at the same location.
- 21. According to the Plan, it was established and maintained according to the provision of an agreement and declaration of trust effective January 1, 1986 by and between the Plumbing and Heating Supply House Employers Association and the Plumbers Union Local 690 (Union) as that term is defined under 29 U.S.C.S. 152(5). The Industry Fund plans are provided for in various collective bargaining agreements between the Union and

various employers and/or associations thereof.

- 22. The Plan states it was adopted by the Board of Trustees of said Plan on January 1, 1986 for the purpose of providing retirement benefits to all persons to whom the Plan may be applicable at their respective retirements from active service upon the terms and conditions and rules of eligibility from time to time established by the Trustees. The Plan provides that it is intended to qualify as a profit sharing plan.
- 23. The Plan provides that the Trustees shall be the named fiduciaries of the Plan referred to in Section 402(a)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and shall have the authority to control and manage the operation and administration of the Plan.
- 24. Although the Plan itself does not name a specific administrator, the Industry Funds are administered by Thomas J. McNulty who is also one of the Union Trustees on the Plan's Board of Trustees. The other Union Trustees are John I. Kane and Thomas J. Crowther. The employer Trustees are Timothy J. Brink, Howard Weinstein and John J. Bee. (All of these Trustees shall be referred to hereinafter as "Trustees".)
- 25. Plaintiff's claims arise under 29 U.S.C.S. 1132(a)(1)(B) as a civil action to recover benefits due to her under the terms of the Plan, to enforce her rights under the terms of the Plan and clarify her rights to future benefits under the terms of the Plan. As such, jurisdiction is proper in this Court pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 1132(e)(1) providing for concurrent jurisdiction in State courts for claims pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 1132(a)(1)(B).
- 26. Plan Article 6.3 requires any application for withdrawal of funds before retirement be made on a form approved by the Trustees and be approved by the Plan

Trustees. The Trustees shall review the applications for withdrawal at their regularly scheduled meetings which are held quarterly in March, June, September and December of each year. In order for the application to be considered at the meeting, it must be received by the Industry Funds' office no later than 4:00 p.m. on the first business day of the month in which the meeting is held. The only exception (not applicable here) is set forth in Plan Article 6.5 in the event of financial hardship which application can be approved by the Co-Chairman of the Board of Trustees with such approval being reviewed by the Board of Trustees at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

- 27. According to Plan Article 6.1(ii), if an employee participant is married, the withdrawal is subject to the written consent of his spouse who must acknowledge the effect of the election, and which must be witnessed by a Plan representative or notary public.
- 28. Plan Article 7.7 (Administration) provides that the Trustees shall have the sole and absolute discretion to determine eligibility for benefits under the Plan and to construe or interpret provisions of the plan and the agreement/declaration of trust and to make factual determinations with respect thereto. Benefits under the Plan are set forth in Plan Article 4 which consist of normal retirement, early retirement, disability retirement, death and severance.
- 29. Pursuant to Plan Article 7.5, benefits under the Plan cannot be assigned except to comply with a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) if the order is determined to be a QDRO as defined in Section 414(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 30. Sometime after the Court entered the Judgment of Divorce on June 27, 2011 and before July 6, 2011, Brooks presented the said Judgment of Divorce to the Industry

Funds' office and requested withdrawal of fifty percent of the balance of his Plan account. On July 6, 2011, the Plan, by letter on Industry Funds' letterhead, executed by Thomas J. McNulty as Administrator, advised Brooks that the funds would be released provided that he confirm there was no property settlement agreement in effect or other understanding by which plaintiff, as former spouse, is entitled to receive some or all of Brooks' account balance in the Supplemental Retirement Plan which might limit the amount Brooks could withdraw. The letter asked Brooks to sign a confirmation printed at the bottom of the letter confirming that the plaintiff was not entitled to any assignment of any portion of Brooks' Plan balance. Upon execution of the confirmation, the withdrawal process would be commenced (Exhibit A).

- 31. Brooks executed the Certification on July 8, 2011 (Exhibit A) and the Fund office permitted him to withdraw one half of his account balance, this according to a letter from the Plan's attorney to plaintiff's former divorce counsel dated August 24, 2011 (Exhibit B). That letter also stated the funds were released to Brooks before the Fund office received plaintiff's former divorce attorney's letter the week before, which included an Amended Judgment of Divorce dated July 26, 2011 indicating that the plaintiff was to receive fifty percent of Brooks' Plan balance utilizing a QDRO and that the remaining one half was to be frozen by the Plan Administrator until further Order of the Court.
- 32. On September 26, 2012 plaintiff's attorney sent a letter by regular and certified mail to McNulty requesting an appeal of the denial of plaintiff's claims. That letter also outlined those documents of which plaintiff was in possession and requested copies of any other documents pertinent to the matter (Exhibit C).

- 33. On October 5, 2012 the Plan's attorney forwarded a letter (Exhibit D) to plaintiff's attorney advising, among other things, that (1) pursuant to the request for additional pertinent documents, enclosed is the September 20, 2011 letter sent by the Plan attorney to plaintiff's former divorce counsel after receiving the proposed QDRO (Exhibit E); and (2) stating although the request for review was outside the Plan's sixty day appeal period, as an accommodation given the change in plaintiff's counsel, the Board of Trustees would review the denial and restoration of the funds in accordance with Section 7.2(b) of the Plan at the next regularly scheduled meeting, which would be December 21, 2012.
- 34. On December 21, 2012 the Plan Administrator McNulty sent a letter to plaintiff's counsel advising the Board of Trustees would not restore the money to the Plan and advising of plaintiff's rights to file a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA (Exhibit F). The decision stated that upon receipt of Brooks' written confirmation, the Plan allowed him to withdraw one half of his account balance and it was not until several weeks after the release of these funds that plaintiff's former divorce counsel sent the Amended Judgment of Divorce to the Plan counsel's office (and the Funds' office, Exhibit B).
- 35. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1103(a), all assets of an employee benefit plan shall be held in trust by one or more trustees who shall have exclusive authority and discretion to manage and control the assets of the plan.
- 36. The Plan's attorney, William Denmark, advised plaintiff's counsel that if Brooks had been represented by an attorney in the divorce action, that attorney would have been contacted by the Fund's office before Brooks would have been permitted to withdraw the monies in his account to verify Brooks' statement that plaintiff had no interest in the

account. He also advised that plaintiff's divorce counsel was not contacted before the withdrawal although his name, address and telephone number appeared on the Judgment of Divorce presented to the Plan Administrator by Brooks.

- 37. The Plan does not grant the Plan Administrator or an individual Trustee discretionary authority in the management, control or administration of the Plan or any other matter relating to the Plan.
- 38. The Plan Trustees and Administrator have all arbitrarily and capriciously or contrary to law breached the obligations to the plaintiff under the Plan by:
- a. refusing to recognize a valid QDRO and freeze the subject funds until further order of the State court;
- b. failing to segregate the subject funds on plaintiff's behalf under Plan

 Article 7.A.10 until a QDRO acceptable to the Plan was submitted;
- c. permitting Brooks to withdraw the subject funds from the Plan by use of procedures which violate the Plan documents and instruments which govern the Plan; that is, those set forth in Plan Article 6 which include but are not limited to failure to obtain an application and failure to present the application to the Board of Trustees at its regular quarterly meeting;
- d. failing to properly inquire and investigate Brooks' claims for withdrawal prior to the withdrawal;
- e. relying solely on Brooks' written confirmation as set forth in the letter he signed stating plaintiff was not entitled to an assignment of all or a portion of his account in the Plan whether arising under a property settlement agreement or otherwise;

- f. refusing to correct the actions taken by the Administrator which were in violation of the terms of the Plan; and
 - g. engaging in such other conduct unknown to the plaintiff.
- 39. As a direct and proximate result of such conduct and/or omissions which were arbitrary and capricious and/or contrary to law and incorrect, plaintiff has been damaged.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the Plan, the Trustees and the Administrator for compensatory damages, pre-judgment interest, attorneys fees and litigation expenses permitted under ERISA, costs and any other relief the Court deems equitable and just under the circumstances.

THIRD COUNT

- 40. Plaintiff repeats the allegations of the first two Counts of the Third Amended Complaint and incorporates the same by reference as if set forth at length herein.
- 41. The fiduciaries of the Plan have a duty to provide benefits and administer the Plan solely in the interests of the participants and beneficiaries with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.
- 42. The Trustees and Administrator breached their fiduciary duty to the plaintiff by:
- a. refusing to recognize a valid QDRO and freeze the subject funds until further order of the State court;
 - b. failing to segregate the subject funds on plaintiff's behalf under Plan

Article 7.A. 10 until a QDRO acceptable to the Plan was submitted;

- c. permitting Brooks to withdraw the subject funds from the Plan by use of procedures which violate the Plan documents and instruments which govern the Plan; that is, those set forth in Plan Article 6 which include but are not limited to failure to obtain an application and failure to present the application to the Board of Trustees at its regular quarterly meeting;
- d. failing to properly inquire and investigate Brooks' claims for withdrawal prior to the withdrawal;
- e. relying solely on Brooks' written confirmation as set forth in the letter he signed stating plaintiff was not entitled to an assignment of all or a portion of his account in the Plan whether arising under a property settlement agreement or otherwise;
- f. refusing to correct the actions taken by the Administrator which were in violation of the terms of the Plan; and
 - g. engaging in such other conduct unknown to the plaintiff.
- 43. The Trustees and Administrator knowingly participated in and acquiesced in the conduct giving rise to the breach and/or failed to make reasonable efforts under the circumstances to remedy the breach.
- 44. The Trustees and Administrator did not use reasonable care to prevent Co-Trustees from committing the breach and in jointly managing and controlling the assets of the Plan.
- 45. As a result of the breach, the Trustees and Administrators are personally liable in accordance with the provisions of 29 U.S.C.S. 1109(a).

46. As a direct and proximate result of said breach, the plaintiff has suffered damages.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the Plan, the Trustees and the Administrator for compensatory damages, pre-judgment interest, attorneys fees and litigation expenses permitted under ERISA, costs and any other relief the Court deems equitable and just under the circumstances.

POLINO and PINTO, P.C.

By:

Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire Attorney for Plaintiff

Date: January 25, 2013

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Rule 4:5-1, it is hereby certified that the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any Court or of a pending arbitration proceeding, nor is any other action or arbitration proceeding contemplated. I am aware of no other parties who should be made a part of this action at the present time.

POLINO and PINTO, P.C.

By:

Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire Attorney for Plaintiff

Date: January 25, 2013

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues in accordance with the Rules of this Court.

POLINO and PINTO, P.C.

Bv:

Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire Attorney for Plaintiff

Date: January 25, 2013

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire is hereby designated as trial counsel for plaintiff in this action.

POLINO and PINTO, P.C.

By:

Joseph M. Proto, Esquire Attorney for Plaintiff

Date: January 25, 2013

Case 1:13-cv-01103-JEI-AMD Document 1-1 Filed 02/25/13 Page 20 of 32 PageID: 24

Plumbers Local Union 690 Industry Funds

of Philadelphia and Vicinity

THOMAS J. MCNULTY

Administrator

2791 SOUTHAMPTON ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 1915

July 6, 2011

FAX: (215)

Mr. Gary P. Brooks, Jr. 4 Hetton Ct. Glasshoro, NJ 08028

Re: Divorce From Jennifer A. Brooks

Dear Mr. Brooks:

Thank you for furnishing us with your Divorce Decree issued by the Superior Court of New Jersey effective June 27, 2011. We understand that you are seeking to make at withdrawal from the Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan (SRP).

We are prepared to allow you to make this withdrawal, consistent with the terms of the SRP, provided that you confirm that there is no property settlement agreement in effect, or other understanding, by which your former spouse, Jennifer A. Brooks, is entitled to receive some or all of your account balance in the SRP and which might limit the amount you can withdraw from the SRP at this time.

On the line indicated below, please confirm that your former spouse is not entitled to an assignment of any portion of your SRP as a result of your divorce proceeding. After you confirm this by signing and dating below, we will then initiate the withdrawal process. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. McNulty ADMINISTRATOR

TJM/kh

By signing below, I hereby confirm to the Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan that my former spouse, Jennifer A. Brooks, is not entitled to an assignment of all or any portion of my account in the Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan, whether arising under a property settlement agreement or otherwise.

Dated: July 8, 2011

A



William A. Denmark, Esquire wdenmark@jacobydonner.com

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August 24, 2011

Jarket Street

1100

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5.563,2870

John M. Makowski, Esquire Greentree Executive Campus 4003 Lincoln Drive West Suite C

Marlton, NJ 08053

Re:

Dear Mr. Makowski:

Brooks v. Brooks -

Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Industry Funds

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I am writing to you in my capacity as co-counsel to the Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Industry Funds in response to your letter to the Fund office dated August 16, 2011. As you probably know, I reached out to your office last week and spoke to your paralegal regarding this matter.

As I indicated in my phone conversation with your paralegal, Gary Brooks had submitted to the Fund office in late June a copy of a Divorce Decree issued by Judge Rand confirming the effective date of divorce as being June 27, 2011. Based on the divorce, Mr. Brooks requested a withdrawal of a share of his funds held in the Supplemental Retirement Plan. Precisely because the Plan was not aware whether there may exist a settlement agreement arising out of the divorce which would require an assignment of some or all of Mr. Brook's interest in the Supplemental Retirement Plan to his former spouse (your client), the Plan required that Mr. Brooks, as a condition to withdrawing funds from the Supplemental Retirement Plan, confirm in writing that his former spouse had no entitlement to a share of his interest in this Plan. I enclose a copy of the Fund Administrator's letter to Mr. Brooks dated July 6, 2011 and Mr. Brook's written acknowledgement dated July 8, 2011, at the bottom of the letter, in which he confirms that your client was not entitled to an assignment of any portion of his interest in the Supplemental Retirement Plan. Based on the Plan's receipt of Mr. Brooks' confirmation, the Fund office allowed Mr. Brooks to withdraw one-half of his account balance in this Plan, and this was accomplished before the Fund office received your letter last week disclosing that in fact there is a Judgment in effect by which your client is entitled to a share of Brooks' Plan account balance.

{00119406;v1}

A Pennsylvania Professional Corporation



John M. Makowski, Esquire August 24, 2011 Page 2

However, there remains in the Supplemental Retirement Plan account onehalf of the original balance (approximately \$23,000) which will remain available for distribution to your client. You should be receiving from the Fund office forms of qualified domestic relations orders to be used both with respect to the Supplemental Retirement Plan and the Pension Plan. The correct name of each Plan is as follows:

Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Pension Plan

Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan

I note that in the Amended Judgment for Divorce, there is a provision requiring that the defendant's one-half interest in the Supplemental Retirement Plan be "frozen" by the Plan Administrator. Regrettably, as I just indicated, that share was already released based on the written undertaking provided by Gary Brooks. I would like to discuss this matter with you further, and feel free to call me at your convenience. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

William A. Denmark

WAD/kh

cc: Mr. Thomas J. McNulty (w/o enc.)

POLINO and PINTO, P.C.

Attorneys at Law Moorestown Times Square 720 East Main Street, Suite 1C Moorestown, NJ 08057

Joseph F. Polino Joseph M. Pinto*

*Also a Member of PA Bar

September 26, 2012

Telephone (856) 727-1777 Telecopier (856) 727-1546 jfpolino@prodigy.net

Thomas J. McNulty, Administrator
Plumbers Local Union 690 Industry Funds
of Philadelphia and Vicinity
2791 Southampton Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154

Via Certified and Regular Mail

RE: Jennifer A. Gallagher (formerly known as Brooks) Ex-Spouse of Member Gary P. Brooks, Jr.

Dear Mr. McNulty:

I represent Jennifer A, Gallagher. Please accept this letter as a request for a review of the denial of benefits from the Supplemental Retirement Plan. The facts known to date are as follows.

On July 6, 2011 you forwarded a letter to member Gary P. Brooks, Jr. which acknowledged receipt of a Judgment of Divorce dated June 27, 2011 and his request to withdraw funds from the SRP. You agreed to release funds to him as long as there was no Property Settlement Agreement or other understanding which would limit his rights to withdraw the monies. He executed a statement to that effect on July 8, 2011.

According to your attorney, William Denmark, who advised me of the following facts during a recent telephone conversation, since Mr. Brooks was not represented by an attorney, you had him sign the statement. Had he been represented by an attorney, you would have called that attorney to verify his statement. You did not call John Makowski, the attorney for the ex-spouse, although the attorney's name, address and telephone number appears on the aforesaid Judgment of Divorce.

On August 24, 2011 your attorney wrote to Mr. Makowski advising that since the SRP was not aware of the Property Settlement Agreement, and Mr. Brooks signed the statement to

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Thomas J. McNulty, Administrator Plumbers Local Union 690 Industry Funds of Philadelphia and Vicinity September 26, 2012 Page two

confirm none existed, you released the money to him.

On September 8, 2011 Mr. Makowski forwarded you a form of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order for the balance of the funds in the SRP and asked that you review the same for acceptability.

You responded to Ms. Gallagher directly on October 25, 2011 with forms to be completed so monies from the plan could be disbursed to her. According to your attorney, Mr. Denmark, these forms were completed, returned and the funds were released.

On October 21, 2011 an Order was executed in the divorce action entering a judgment against Gary Brooks for the monies he unlawfully withdrew from the plan.

I am in possession of the following documents; if there are any other documents pertinent to this matter, please forward copies to me:

- 1. Judgment of Divorce dated June 27, 2011;
- 2. Amended Judgment of Divorce dated July 26, 2011;
- 3. Court Order of October 21, 2011;
- 4. Letter from John Makowski to the Court dated July 6, 2011;
- 5. Letter from Plumbers Local Union to Gary Brooks dated July 6, 2011;
- 6. Letter from William Denmark, Esquire to John Makowski, Esquire dated August 24, 2011;
- Letter dated September 8, 2011 from Makowski to the Plan with copy of QDRO, unsigned and undated;
- 8. Letter dated October 25, 2011 from Plan Administrator to ex-spouse with SRP history; and
- 9. Participant Distribution Election form for Jennifer A. Gallagher signed November 5, 2011 for \$24,857.61, with direct rollover request.

Please advise when a decision has been made.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH W. PINTO JMP:dm

cc: Ms. Jennifer A. Gallagher



William A. Denmark, Esquire wdenmark@jacobydonner.com

OCT - 9 2012

October 5, 2012

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700 Market Street

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15.563.2400

1x: 215.563.2870

Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire

720 East Main Street

Suite 1C

Moorestown, NJ 08057

Re:

Jennifer A. Gallagher (formerly known as Jennifer A. Brooks),

And Gary P. Brooks, Jr.

Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan

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Dear Mr. Pinto:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan ("SRP") in response to your letter to the Fund Administrator dated September 26, 2012 and as a follow-up to our recent phone conversations on October 2 and October 3, 2012. As you note in your letter, Mr. Brooks had provided my client in late June, 2011 a copy of his Divorce Decree which made no reference to a property settlement agreement with his former spouse. Mr. Brooks sought to withdraw a share of the funds in his SRP account. At the time of his request, the SRP had no notice of the existence of a property settlement agreement or of a contemplated assignment of a share of Brooks' SRP account under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order. However, out of an abundance of caution, the SRP required Mr. Brooks, as a condition to receiving a share of his SRP funds, to confirm in writing that his former spouse was not entitled to an assignment of any portion of his interest in the SRP. As you correctly note, Mr. Brooks signed a representation to that effect, after which funds were released to Mr. Brooks in accordance with the terms of the SRP.

A number of weeks later, in August, 2011, my client received a copy of an Amended Judgment which, for the first time, indicated that, in addition to an assignment of one-half of the SRP account of Brooks to the former spouse (which assignment has been implemented), the remaining half (which had already been released to Mr. Brooks) was to be "frozen" by the Plan Administrator.

Apart from the fact, as we had previously indicated, that the SRP had done nothing improper by releasing funds to Mr. Brooks, it is important to note that we do not believe that the freezing of a share of an account balance in the SRP, as

{00163637;v1}





Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire October 5, 2012 Page 2

contemplated by the Amended Judgment, is consistent with the terms of ERISA and other legislation governing this plan.

In accordance with your request that I provide you with any additional documents pertinent to this matter, I now enclose a copy of a letter dated September 20, 2011 which I sent to John Makowski after receiving a draft of the Qualified Domestic Relations Order for the SRP. In that letter, you will note that I state that we do not believe a provision authorizing the freezing of a participant's share in the SRP is permissible, and that we likely could not have implemented that clause even if we had received notice in a timely manner.

Notwithstanding all of this, I understand from your September 26, 2012 letter that you are asking for a further review of the decision of the SRP not to restore to the SRP for your client's benefit (and hold in suspension) the funds that were released to Mr. Brooks.

Although your request for review is being made more than sixty (60) days after the SRP confirmed its prior actions, as an accommodation given the change of counsel that has occurred, the Board of Trustees of the SRP will review the initial denial of the restoration of the funds that had been released to Mr. Brooks, in accordance with Section 7.2(b) of the SRP, at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Trustees.

For your information, the Trustees meet on a quarterly basis and the next meeting will convene on Friday, December 21, 2012. This matter will be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Trustees at that time, and the outcome of that review will be provided in a timely manner in accordance with the Plan. Between this date and the December 21 Trustees' meeting, you have the right to submit any further written comments, documents and other information pertaining to this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

William A. Denmark

WAD/kh

cc: Mr. Thomas J. McNulty

{00163637;v1}



William A. Denmark, Esquire wdenmark@jacobydonner.com

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) Market Street

e 3100

adelphia, PA 19103

563.2400

215,563,2870

September 20, 2011

John M. Makowski, Esquire Greentree Executive Campus 4003 Lincoln Drive West Suite C

Marlton, NJ 08053-1523

Re:

Brooks v. Brooks

Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan

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Dear Mr. Makowski;

As you are aware, I am co-counsel to the Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan. The Plan Administrator has forwarded to me your letter of September 8, 2011 and the draft QDRO which you enclosed with that letter.

On behalf of the Supplemental Retirement Plan, I have reviewed the draft QDRO and find that it is satisfactory except in one respect. As you correctly noted in your letter, the last sentence of Section 3 of the draft Order provides that the balance of the Participant's account not being assigned to the Alternate Payee shall be "frozen" pending further Order of the Court and not be payable to the Participant in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

This sentence needs to be deleted from the final Order for two (2) réasons. First, as previously noted, based on a written statement provided by Mr. Brooks (which the Plan only later learned was false), the share of the Plan not being assigned to your client was already distributed to Mr. Brooks and therefore cannot be held as directed in that provision of the Order.

Second, even if the remaining share of the Participant's account was still held by the Plan. I do not believe a provision providing for the freezing of a Participant's share is permissible under the terms of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. In any event, that clause cannot be implemented and therefore needs to be deleted from the final draft of the Order.

(00122071;v1)





John M. Makowski, Esquire September 20, 2011 Page 2

Subject to the preceding, the draft Order you provided is satisfactory and can be finalized and then forwarded to the Plan Administrator for implementation. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

William A. Denmark

WAD/kh

cc: Mr. Thomas J. McNulty

Case 1:13-cv-01103-JEI-AMD Document 1-1 Filed 02/25/13 Page 29 of 32 PageID: 33 Plumbers Local Union 690 Industry Funds

of Philadelphia and Vicinity

2791 SOUTHAMPTON ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19154

THOMAS J. McNulty

Administrator

(215) 677-6900 FAX: (215) 677-6986

December 21, 2012

Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire Polino & Pinto, P.C. Moorestown Time Square 720 East Main Street Suite 1C Moorestown, NJ 08057-3058

DEC 2 6 2012

Re: Jennifer A. Gallagher (formerly known as Jennifer A. Brooks) and Gary P. Brooks, Jr.

Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan

Dear Mr. Pinto:

I am writing to you in my capacity as Administrator of the Plumbers Local Union No. 690 Supplemental Retirement Plan ("Plan") in response to your request that the Board of Trustees of the Plan review and reconsider its previous determination <u>not</u> to restore to the Plan, for the benefit of Ms. Gallagher, funds that had previously been released to Gary P. Brooks, Jr.

By way of background, Gary Brooks provided my office in late June of 2011 a copy of his divorce decree (dated June 27, 2011) which made no reference to a Property Settlement Agreement with his former spouse. Mr. Brooks requested the withdrawal of a share of the funds in his Plan account. Although the Plan had no knowledge of the existence of a Property Settlement Agreement which might affect Mr. Brooks' interest in the Plan, it required him, as a condition to receiving funds from the Plan, to confirm in writing this his former spouse was not entitled to any portion of his interest in the Plan. Upon receipt of Mr. Brooks' written confirmation, the Plan allowed Brooks to withdraw one-half of his account balance in the Plan as is permitted under the terms of the Plan.



Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire December 21, 2012 Page 2

It was not until several weeks after the release of these funds that your client's initial counsel (John M. Makowski, Esquire) sent to my office an "Amended Judgment for Divorce" which required that Brooks' interest in the Plan be divided equally between him and your client, and that Brooks' one-half interest in the Plan (which had already been released to him) be "frozen" by my office and held subject to further order of the Court.

After receipt of this Judgment, Plan counsel advised Mr. Makowski that the Plan could not "freeze" the one-half share allocable to Mr. Brooks as such share had already been released to him. The Plan did release to Ms. Gallagher the one-half share of the Plan account allocable to her, and in accordance with the terms of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order.

On Friday, December 21, 2012, a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Plan convened and the Trustees considered your request (on behalf of Ms. Gallagher) that funds representing the one-half share of the Plan account released to Mr. Brooks be restored to the Plan and be "frozen" by my office pending further order of the Court, in accordance with the terms of the Amended Judgment for Divorce. After careful review and deliberation on this matter, the Trustees have decided, on a unanimous basis, not to restore to the Plan funds representing the one-half share of Mr. Brooks' Plan account that had been previously released to him. This determination was based on two considerations:

1. First, and most importantly, the Plan acted properly and responsibly, in releasing Brooks' one-half interest, in accordance with the terms of the Plan, based upon the fact that (i) the initial Divorce Decree made no reference to the existence of a Property Settlement Agreement and the Plan had received no notice of an assignment of the Plan account, and

Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire December 21, 2012 Page 3

- (ii) the Plan reasonably relied on Brooks' written confirmation that there was no assignment made of his interest in the Plan.
- 2. Second, even if the Plan had received notice of the Amended Judgment for Divorce prior to release of funds to Brooks, the freezing of his share of the account balance, as contemplated in such Judgment, is not consistent with the terms of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA") and other relevant law.

This decision is final and binding on all parties. In accordance with the terms of the Plan, Ms. Gallagher is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to her claim for benefits. Ms. Gallagher also has the right to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA as a result of this determination.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. McNulty Plan Administrator

TJM/dl

cc: William A. Denmark, Esquire

POLINO and PINTO, P.C. Attorneys at Law Moorestown Times Square 720 East Main Street, Suite 1C Moorestown, NJ 08057 Telephone (856) 727-1777 Attorneys for Plaintiff

JENNIFER A. GALLAGHER

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Plaintiff

LAW DIVISION

٧.

DOCKET NO. BUR-L-2873-12

Civil Action

JOHN M. MAKOWSKI; PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION 690 SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT PLAN; THOMAS J. McNULTY; JOHN I. KANE; THOMAS J. CROWTHER; TIMOTHY J. BRINK; HOWARD WEINSTEIN; JOHN J. BEE

Defendants

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I, Joseph M. Pinto, Esquire of full age, hereby certify that on the 25th day of January 2013, I caused to be served by U.S. first class mail, postage prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Third Amended Complaint upon John M. Makowski, Esquire, Pro Se, Greentree Executive Campus, 4003 Lincoln Drive, Suite C, Marlton, NJ 08053.

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are wilfully false, I am subject to punishment.

POLINO and PINTO, P.C.

Date: January 25, 2013

Attorney for Plaintiff